

## Roberts, Bradley

---

**From:** Roberts, Bradley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 1:31 PM  
**To:** 'philip hornbeck'  
**Cc:** Diane Sheridan (dbsfacilitator@gmail.com); Juan Somoano; Mostafa Kamal (mkamal@kdheks.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: oxy wichita

Phil, I see that Diane S. sent you an email that should answer some of your questions below. Apparently you have had trouble reading the attachments she sends you, so I pasted below info from her meeting notes to be sure you can read about the carbon filters. You also commented about 'how long it takes to implement an EPA decision' and something about 'waiting decades for EPA to act,' unfortunately I don't know what you're referring to, so I can't answer specifically. As mentioned in the meeting, the gathering of data for the investigation is basically complete, and Glenn Springs is now beginning to put together a work plan for studying potential corrective measures; the initial step in selecting a final site remedy. Juan stated in the meeting that he intends to have the public repository set up sometime in August and the investigation report should be there for the public to read, if they wish to be more informed.

### **Brad Roberts, Environmental Scientist**

**AWMD/WRAP/RCAP**

**US EPA Region 7**

**11201 Renner Blvd.**

**Lenexa, KS 66219**

**Phone: 913-551-7279**

**Fax: 913-551-9279**

**Email: [roberts.bradley@epa.gov](mailto:roberts.bradley@epa.gov)**

CIG notes 4-29-15 DRAFT for members Page 1 of 2

## **OxyChem Community Involvement Group Meeting Notes**

### **Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

The 220<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OxyChem Wichita Plant Community Involvement Group (CIG) was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at the OxyChem plant for a tour. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as presented. Meeting notes from February were approved without change. Brian Obr, Operations Manager, represented Plant Manager Steve Hieger, who was unable to attend.

#### **ATTENDEES\***

**CIG Members** Terry Behrendt \* Jack Brown Clem Dickerson \* Phil Harris \* Elaine Harvey \* Phil Hornbeck Tom Kneil \* Shawn Maloney \* Beverly McKibban

Sedgwick Co. Fire Dept : Clint Owens, Sam Konkel\* Judith Spor Laura Swanson Donnah Taylor (on leave) Jeff Whitfield, Haysville PD

Wichita Fire Dept: Dennis Woods \*

**Observers/Speakers** Shari Darland\* Mary Grogan\* Scott Hartranft, Air Products\* Dave Hewitt\* Sharon Hewitt\* Elvin Leedy\* Melissa Oelkers, Air Products\* Brad Roberts, EPA Region 7\* Clint Schutte, USD 261\* Hugh Williamson, retiree\* **OxyChem Liaisons & Resources** Mike Garza, Process Supt\* Dietrich Goble, Process Engineer\* Dave Griffith\* Steve Hieger, Plant Manager Eric Miller, Technical Mgr\* Brian Obr, Operations Mgr\* Juan Somoano, Glenn Springs Holdings\* Nancy Thimmesch Lisa Thurman, Environmental\* Arden Unruh, Utility Supervisor\* Facilitator Diane Sheridan\*

#### **UPDATES**

Brian Obr said the plant recently had a US Department of Homeland Security audit with no findings. The site also had a one-week corporate Health, Environment, Safety, and Security (HESS) audit, which is conducted every 3 years. There have been no reportable environmental events since the last meeting, but one injury occurred in March.

CIG members sent best wishes to Greg Davis, who is moving to a new job in the company. Members have appreciated Davis's extensive efforts over the years to help them understand deepwell operations and water usage, which included building them a deepwell model.

RCRA



551126

EPA's Brad Roberts said the plant's semi-annual groundwater monitoring reports are posted at this time on the EPA Region 7 website. Juan Somoano said Glenn Springs Holdings will talk with the Haysville Community Library about establishing a repository for these and some other reports as the plant moves toward the end of the corrective action process.

<http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/occidental-chemical/index.htm>

## **TOUR OF PLANT'S NEW INTERCEPTOR WELL TREATMENT SYSTEM**

Arden Unruh, Utility Supervisor, described the new interceptor well (IW) treatment system and showed attendees the equipment and the control system. (IWs pump groundwater to the surface to CIG notes 4-29-15 DRAFT for members Page 2 of 2

control the plume of contaminants.) Historically, the plant has used activated carbon (activated charcoal) to treat the groundwater pumped at two IWs. The new system is larger and is handling 4 additional IWs. It has the capacity to treat as much as 600 gallons per minute (gpm). The treated IW water can be discharged to the surface rather than disposed of in deepwells. The new treatment system is fully automated and both operated and viewable from a plant control room.

The water from the 4 IWs is sent to the new treatment building, combined, and split into two lines. Each line then flows through a Carbon Bed A and a Carbon Bed B and then is sent to an effluent tank. As permitted by KDHE, the tank has outlets that permit the treated water to be sent to Pond 2 of the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Area, to the plant, to an outfall on 55<sup>th</sup> Street that discharges to the Cowskin Creek, or to a deepwell. To date, it has been discharging to the Cowskin but was shut down at the time of the tour, so the IW effluent was being sent to a deepwell.

Within a month or so, the remaining infrastructure will be completed, allowing the treated water to be moved to a freshwater tank on the plant site where it will be used to meet part of the plant's fresh water needs. For example, it may be used in cooling towers. Approximately 400 gpm of fresh water will not have to be withdrawn from plant water wells when the treated IW water is being used in the plant. The availability of the new infrastructure may permit additional small future water reduction efforts. CIG members expressed appreciation for the investment, which meets a group goal of having the plant use less water, while extending deepwell life. These reductions do not eliminate the plant's need for its current water rights and groundwater.

The activated charcoal is the type used in aquariums. Members had questions about its regeneration. After a period, it is removed from a line in the bottom of the treatment tank and sent to a company that specializes in carbon regeneration. Such companies use a variety of methods to remove contaminants and then sell the regenerated carbon. The contaminants from the IWs that feed this treatment system do not constitute hazardous waste, thus their carbon is not a hazardous waste.

CIG members and guests thanked all the workers involved in making the tour possible and suggested that the new system could be a model for other plants.

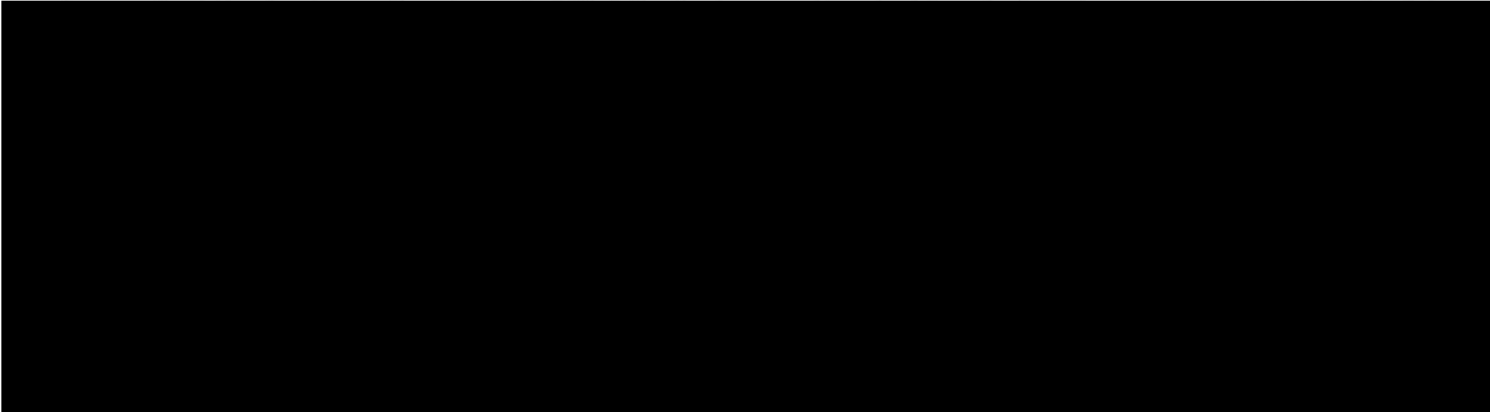
---

**From:** philip hornbeck [REDACTED] Ex. 6 PII  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2015 10:03 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Bradley  
**Subject:** oxy wichita

Good morning,

I checked the region 7 entry in the epa data a found nothing except the partial semi annual report. Partial because several of the IW wells were ignored. Are they deemed unimportant or not relative?

Several years ago an agreement with epa and kdhe was to set up a similar repository as you and your cohorts oxy are recommending. I do not have a record of that agreement but am aware that kdhe failed to follow through with their portion, so the idea never worked. I don't remember the details of what was to be done, but it never operated as designed. Ex. 7(c)



What is with the carbon filters? How long does it take to implement an epa decision. I realize oxy has more experience with the epa than any other company and as such they know how to delay any decisions. The epa is waiting decades to act on the overall situation at the site and with oxy's close relationship with the agency it will probably take years longer than the 2020 deadline imposed years ago. Where is that decision now? When will the data finally be accumulated and when can the public expect action? Thank you.